

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A network device, comprising:
a port to allow the device to communicate with a called endpoint; and
a processor to:
 send a call request message associated with a call to the called endpoint, ~~the call request message including a delayed call establishment capability advertisement; and~~
 indicate a desire to delay call establishment until a delay point is reached, the delay point indicating a point to which the call is to progress before delaying establishment of the call ~~call supplementary services, the call supplementary services including one of call completion on busy and call completion on no answer;~~
 send a release message after the delay point has been reached indicating that the establishment of the call should continue from the delay point if the call is to be established; and
 send a release message after the delay point has been reached indicating that the establishment of the call should not continue if the call is to be ended.
2. (Previously presented) The network device of claim 1, wherein the processor further to receive a notification that a delay point has been reached.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously presented) The network device of claim 1, in which the network device comprises a calling endpoint.
5. (Currently Amended) A method of delaying call establishment, the method comprising:
transmitting, from a network device ~~at a calling endpoint~~, a call request message associated with a call to a called endpoint, the call request message including ~~a delayed call establishment capability advertisement that is one of desired or mandatory and~~ a delay point, the delay point indicating a point to which the call is to progress before delaying establishment of the call;

sending a release message, from the network device, after the delay point has been reached indicating that the establishment of the call should continue from the delay point if the call is to be established; and

sending a release message, from the network device, after the delay point has been reached indicating that the establishment of the call should not continue if the call is to be ended.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, the method comprising receiving a notification from the called endpoint that the delay point has been reached.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, ~~the method~~ further comprising:
performing maintenance testing with the called endpoint; and
sending the release message indicating that the establishment of the call should not continue after performing the maintenance testing and without notifying the called endpoint to ~~start~~ alert~~[[ing]]~~ a called user~~[[,]]~~;

wherein maintenance comprises at least one of the group comprised of: quality of service (QoS) testing, service level verification, probing endpoints, querying for services supported by a device.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein transmitting ~~[[a]]~~ the call request message comprises~~[[ing]]~~ transmitting a session initiation protocol INVITE message.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein transmitting ~~[[a]]~~ the call request message comprises~~[[ing]]~~ transmitting an H.323 Setup message.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method of delayed call establishment, the method comprising:
receiving, at a network device at a called endpoint, a call request message associated with a call, ~~indicating a need for delayed call establishment and identifying the call request message including a delay point, the call request message including a delayed call establishment capability advertisement that is one of mandatory or desired, the delay point indicating a point to which the call should progress before delaying establishment of the call;~~

delaying establishment of the call, at the network device, after reaching the delay point;
continuing with establishment of the call from the delay point in response to receiving a release message, at the network device, indicating that the establishment of the call should continue from the delay point; and

ending the call without notifying a user of the called endpoint in response to receiving a release message, at the network device, indicating that the call should not be established.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, the method comprising:
transmitting a response indicating availability of delayed call establishment; and
progressing the call to the delay point.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15, the method comprising notifying a calling endpoint that that delay point has been reached.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 ~~[[18]], in which processing the call comprises further comprising~~ alerting a user, of ~~[[a]] the called endpoint, of the call in response to receiving the release message, at the network device, indicating that the establishment of the call should continue from the delay point.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 ~~[[18]], in which processing the call comprises further comprising~~:

performing maintenance testing and feature discovery on the called with a calling endpoint without alerting a user of the called endpoint; ~~in which feature discovery comprises determining if the calling endpoint and the called endpoint have matching features~~

ending the call after performing the maintenance testing without notifying the user of the called endpoint in response to receiving the release message, at the network device, indicating that the establishment of the call should not be established.

21. (Currently Amended) A network device, comprising:

a port to allow the device to communicate with a calling endpoint;
a processor to:

receive a call request message associated with a call from the calling endpoint, the call request message including ~~a delayed call establishment capability advertisement and a delay point~~ indicating a point to which the call should progress before delaying call establishment; ~~call request message including feature discovery of a called endpoint and call supplementary services, in which feature discovery of the called endpoint is a process of determining if features of the called endpoint match features of the calling endpoint;~~

~~respond with a notification of delayed call establishment availability; and~~

process the call to ~~[[a]]~~ the delay point;

delay establishment of the call after reaching the delay point;

continue with establishment of the call from the delay point in response to receiving a release message indicating that the establishment of the call should continue from the delay point; and

ending the call without notifying a user of a called endpoint associated with the call in response to receiving a release message indicating that the call should not be established.

22. (Previously presented) The network device of claim 21, wherein the processor further to transmit a notification that the delay point has been reached.

23. (Currently Amended) The network device of claim 21, wherein the processor further to determine if the call is to be established and, if the call is to be established, notify ~~[[a]]~~ the user of the called endpoint.

24. (Previously presented) The network device of claim 21, in which the network device comprises the called endpoint.

25. (Currently Amended) The network device of claim 21, in which the network device calling endpoint comprises an intermediary between the calling endpoint and the called endpoint.

26. (Currently Amended) An article of non-transitory computer-readable media storing computer executable instructions that, when executed, cause computer to:

transmit a call request message associated with a call to a called endpoint, the call request message identifying a delay point to which ~~[[a]]~~ the call should progress before delaying establishment of the call; ~~the call request message indicating feature discovery of the called endpoint and call supplementary services~~

send a release message after the delay point has been reached indicating that the establishment of the call should continue from the delay point if the call is to be established; and

send a release message after the delay point has been reached indicating that the establishment of the call should not continue if the call is to be ended.

27. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 26, wherein the instructions further causing the computer to receive a notification from the called endpoint that the delay point has been reached; ~~the call supplementary services comprising call completion on no answer.~~

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 26, wherein the instructions further causing the computer to:

perform maintenance testing with the called endpoint; and

send the release message indicating that the establishment of the call should not continue without notifying the called endpoint to ~~start~~ alert~~[[ing]]~~ a called user~~[[,]]~~ after performing the maintenance testing;

wherein maintenance comprises at least one of the group comprised of: quality of service (QoS) testing, service level verification, probing endpoints, querying for services supported by a device.

31. (Currently Amended) An article of non-transitory computer-readable media containing computer executable instructions that, when executed, cause computer to:

receive a call request message associated with a call, ~~indicating a need for delayed call establishment and identifying the call request message including a delay point, the delay point indicating a point to which the call should progress before delaying establishment of the call; the call request message including feature discovery of the called endpoint to determine if features of the called endpoint match features of a calling endpoint~~

delay establishment of the call after reaching the delay point;

continue with establishment of the call from the delay point in response to receiving a release message indicating that the establishment of the call should continue from the delay point; and

end the call without notifying a user of the called endpoint in response to receiving a release message indicating that the call should not be established.

32. (Previously presented) The article of claim 31, the instructions further causing the computer to

transmit a response indicating availability of delayed call establishment; and
progress the call to the delay point.

33. (Previously presented) The article of claim 31, the instructions further causing the computer to notify the calling endpoint that that delay point has been reached.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended) A network device, comprising:

a means for allowing the device to communicate with a called endpoint;
a means for sending a call request message associated with a call to the called endpoint,
the call request message including a delay point indicating a point to which the call is to progress

before delaying establishment of the call ~~delayed call establishment capability advertisement, the call request message including feature discovery; and~~

~~a means for indicating a desire to delay call establishment until a delay point is reached~~

a means for sending a release message, from the network device, after the delay point has been reached indicating that the establishment of the call should continue from the delay point if the call is to be established; and

a means for sending a release message, from the network device, after the delay point has been reached indicating that the establishment of the call should not continue if the call is to be ended.

36. (Currently Amended) A network device, comprising:

a means for allowing the device to communicate with a calling endpoint;

a means for receiving a call request message associated with a call from the calling endpoint, the call request message including ~~a delayed call establishment capability advertisement, feature discovery and~~ a delay point, the delay point indicating a point to which the call should progress before delaying call establishment;

~~a means for responding with a notification of delayed call establishment availability; and~~

a means for processing the call to ~~[[a]]~~ the delay point;

a means for delaying establishment of the call after reaching the delay point;

a means for continuing with establishment of the call from the delay point in response to receiving a release message indicating that the establishment of the call should continue from the delay point; and

a means for ending the call without notifying a user of the called endpoint in response to receiving a release message indicating that the call should not be established.

37. (canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) The network device of claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured to:

~~the delay point indicates~~ perform diagnostic testing with the called endpoint; and

send the release message indicating that the establishment of the call should not continue without alerting a user of the called endpoint after performing the diagnostic testing.

39. (Currently Amended) The network device of claim 1, wherein the delay point is a point at which ~~indicates~~ media ports are properly opened prior to call completion.

40. (Currently Amended) The network device of claim 21, wherein the processor is further configured to:

delay point indicates perform diagnostic testing with the calling endpoint; and
end the call in response to receiving the release message indicating that the establishment of the call should not continue without alerting a user of the called endpoint after performing the diagnostic testing.

41. (Currently Amended) The network device of claim 21, wherein the delay point is a point at which ~~indicates~~ media ports are properly opened prior to call completion.

42. (Cancelled)

43. (New) The network device of claim 1, the call request message, the call, and the delay point referred to as a first call request message, a first call, and a first delay point, respectively, wherein the processor is further configured to:

repeat sending the first call request message associated with the first call to the called endpoint and indicating the desire to delay call establishment of the first call until the first delay point is reached; and

receive a message from the called endpoint indicating that the first call is proceeding; and
send a second call request message associated with a second call to a calling endpoint after receiving the message from the called endpoint indicating that the first call is proceeding, the second call request message including a second delay point to which the second call is to progress before delaying establishment of the second call.

44. (New) The network device of claim 43, wherein the processor is further configured to receive a notification from the calling endpoint indicating that the second delay point has been reached.

45. (New) The network device of claim 44, wherein the processor is further configured to send a first release message to the calling endpoint after receiving the notification from the calling endpoint, the first release message indicating that call establishment of the second call should continue.

46. (New) The network device of claim 45, wherein the processor is further configured to send a second release message to the called endpoint indicating that call establishment of the first call should continue.

47. (New) The network device of claim 46, wherein the processor is further configured to merge the first call and the second call.